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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 84% Generally cloudy sky with Light rain Sensex 66,060 | Nifty 19,564 | Gold 59,934 | Silver 75,990 | Dollar 82.08 | Euro 92.23 | GBP 107.45

Bus bay built by BBMP right behind its head office is of no use as it has come apart just years after its grand inauguration

LEAKY BLINDERS: RUN FOR COVER

Dripping roof, dirty pillar — passengers forced to wait on the road for buses

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is supposed to be a role model for various agencies that maintain bus shelters across the city. What do you expect if the authorities fail to maintain a bus shelter or a bus bay constructed by the civic body behind its Head Office? The bus bay was constructed by spending lakhs of rupees and opened with much fanfare in 2015 but the condition of the bus bay is far from satisfactory and it is certainly not serving the purpose for which it was constructed.

The then Minister Ramalinga Reddy inaugurated it on on April 15, 2015, while the then Mayor Shanathakumari was the chief guest. The bus bay was aimed to reduce congestion on P Kalinga Rao Road by facilitating a designated place for BMTC commuters to wait for boarding buses.

With the bus bay becoming unusable, commuters are avoiding it entirely, especially because of the leaky roof,

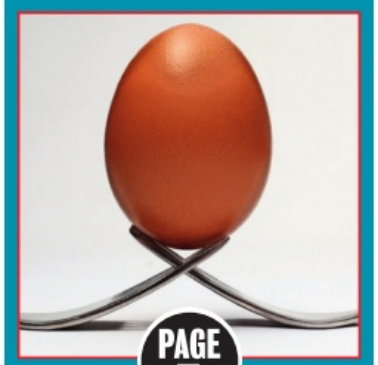
CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“Most of the bus shelters constructed in the city are not serving the purpose. Some of them are constructed unscientifically. Many of them have no information on BMTC bus services and have no seating facilities

– Vinay Srinivasan, Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike

EGG SAMPLE

High price forcing schools to ditch protein source in mid-day meal



PAGE 3

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Half of streetlights on Basavanagar main road restored, half more to go

PAGE 4

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Abstract beauty

City's Gallery G is showcasing the mesmerising works on paper of the celebrated Indian artist VS Gaitonde this month. Each of his works is a unique moment of artistic expression and reflects his ability to evoke emotions. Gaitonde is known for his abstract paintings and emerged as an important figure during the 1950s.

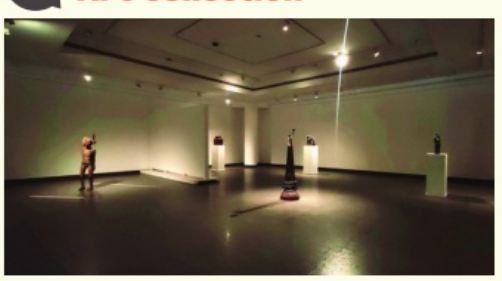
Where: Gallery G, Lavelle Road
When: until July 28; 10 am to 6:30 pm

02 Support artisans

Here's a chance for you to explore a variety of handlooms, jewellery, gems, bed rugs, Kalamkari sarees, fabrics, earrings, kurtas, and more at the Rajasthan Handloom and Handicraft Expo. The exhibition aims to bring together rural artisans from the eastern part of India through the use of traditional handloom skills to create contemporary lifestyle products.

Where: Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana , RBI Layout, CA03, Kothnur Main Road, JP Nagar 7th Phase

03 Art collection



National Gallery of Modern Art, Bengaluru (NGMA B) presents in-house curated sculpture exhibition Pratibha from the permanent collection of NGMA Bengaluru going on at the new wing gallery. The exhibition showcases 39 sculptures and mixed media artworks of well-known artists who have contributed to the history of modern art in India.

Where: #49, Manekyavelu Mansion, Palace Road
When: Till August 20; Tuesday to Friday 11 am to 06 pm; Saturday and Sunday 11 am to 07:30 pm; Monday gallery remains closed

Woodcraft in action

Multidisciplinary designer brings ergonomic furniture designs to forefront; says each piece of his crafted furniture comes from customer feedback

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What started at an underground garage in Koramangala is now a full-fledged furniture shop that caters to many businesses. Such has been the journey for Rahul Karankal, who studied at the Sir JJ School of Art in Mumbai and the National Institute of Design in the city. He hails from Vasind, Maharashtra. He spent his childhood near the river and saw the village and a factory beside it simultaneously. Watching steel being made inspired him to make furniture. He has made furniture for films like Rocket Singh and worked with personalities like Farhan Akhtar. He has industry experience in movies.

"Movies are only based on cameras, and I was doing it to fund my projects after college. Industry exposure gave me exposure to how advanced software works. My work was appreciated, and my design of two chairs got published during my college days. During my days at NID, I realised that digital design can be made," he said.

He ventured into selling Donne Biryani, which did not flourish. "I had built a cloud kitchen in Indiranagar. I was financially broke. Since I was not an expert, I went back to Mumbai and started interior projects. With clients not paying, there were issues. I spoke with different kinds of young audiences. People were dreaming of having Nutella in mountains and forests. Taking the mountain as an experience, we built an entire cafe based on this theme. I studied different types of mountains and how the experience would be," he added.

This is how the interiors of Tella Tales and Nutella Cafe came up in the city. The other project he worked on was Agrotie, an agricultural training centre where people can learn about plants.

When the pandemic hit, he decided to change the name of the company from Asana (furniture) to WFHtable to cater to the needs of the audience who were working from home. "Retail is my education, but furniture is within me. I never purchased any furniture from any other brand but constructed my own. After the pandemic, a customer asked for a work-from-home setup. This is when I designed the 'Grasshopper' model, which is an eight-seater," he explained.

Rahul runs WFHtable along with his wife.

Karankal decided to change the name of the company to WFHtable, which he runs with his wife

> **"We provide solutions based on the needs. Design is one part, but another is comfort**
> – Rahul Karankal

What sets WFHtable apart from the rest?

Rahul said that for customers, they are giving more clarity about the benefits. "We provide solutions to customers based on their needs. Design is one part, but another part is comfort. Everyone has different stories, and those should be fulfilled, which is our goal," he informed.

He added that furniture should be wholesome. "I keep changing the furniture design every month. It is studio-based, and everything is designed, built, and manufactured in India. We have our own R&D team. Each piece of furniture comes from customer feedback. This is a customer-centric model," he mentioned. The objective is to think of various aspects, like leg space in a laptop, to ensure ergonomics and comfort.

He looks forward to collaborating with Indian manufacturers to build better products.

Thrill ride: Keeping up with Jawa and Yezdi

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The Bangalore Jawa Yezdi Motorcycle Club recently organised Jawa Yezdi in the city. The club was established in early 2007 by four bike enthusiasts: Brian Ammanna, Amrit Appaiah, Lokesh JM, and John Samuel. The club's primary objective is to preserve and revive the glory of the rare Jawa and Yezdi bikes from yesteryears.

Brian Ammanna, the president and co-founder of the club, said, "Owning and maintaining a classic bike like a Jawa or Yezdi has its own charm and challenges. BJYMC was formed to support such enthusiastic individuals, and even today, we continue on that mission. International Jawa Day is a tribute to all the passionate Jawa and Yezdi bike owners who keep this passion alive and pass it on to the next generation."

With over a thousand members and a virtual fanbase, the club organises a range of activities to engage its members and promote their shared passion for vintage motorcycles. Regular activities include organising multiple rides, with a notable event called 'Beligana Upahara with BJYMC' taking place on the second Sunday of each month.

BIKERS' BUZZ
BM'S PLATFORM TO MAKE THE GOOD RIDES ROLL

This event involves a breakfast gathering at a renowned eatery, followed by rides to popular food destinations in and around the city. The club also hosts the annual 'Malnad Dairies' ride, where members explore the picturesque Malnad region. Jawa clubs from various parts of Karnataka, including Mangaluru, Udupi, and Mysuru, actively participate in this ride, he added.

"Additionally, the club arranges monsoon rides, beach rides, and numerous overnight trips throughout the year. We also organise special rides on special occasions such as Independence Day, Republic Day, and World Motorcycle Day. Moreover, during their annual rides, the members contribute gifts, essentials, and monetary support to local government schools and orphanages, demonstrating their commitment to social responsibility," he explained.

On the 21st International Jawa Yezdi Day, celebrated every second Sunday of July, the club organised an adventure track, engaging participants in various activities. Jose Martin, the Secretary of the club, added, "When things are done for sheer joy and passion for the community, the outcome is always wonderful."

Bangalore jawa Yezdi Motorcycle Club organises a range of activities to promote shared passion for vintage motorcycles

Where is the promised egg on kids' plates?

Schools unable to keep up with rising cost of eggs have shifted to providing banana and chikki in mid-day meals

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PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

According to experts, provision of egg in midday meals also has a positive effect on attendance at schools

Eggs are not being provided with midday meals at various schools across the state, despite the government's order to distribute them on priority. Only those students who do not wish to have eggs are supposed to be given bananas and chikki. However, school authorities have said that since there has been a massive hike in prices, they have switched to providing chikki and bananas instead.

The state government has allocated a reimbursement of Rs 6 per unit of egg, banana or groundnut chikki. However, since the price of eggs has been rising in the last few weeks – reaching Rs 7 per unit, school authorities have been providing the other two alternatives instead.

They also have noted that the eggs need to be boiled and peeled, costing them Rs 30 paise additionally. Since the government will not be taking any measures to reimburse them the additional cost, school authorities have decided to manage within the designated funds.

Swati Narayan, an activist with the Right to Food campaign, had previously told the Bangalore Mirror, "As per the National Family Health Survey 2019-21 and earlier Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey 2016-18, more than 80 per cent of Kannadigas eat eggs. So it is unlikely that children would have any objection to eating eggs in schools and anganwadis.

As expected, even in the two districts of Karnataka which initially served eggs, 80% of children choose eggs instead of bananas and chikkis."

She explained that last year, studies in two districts of Karnataka which served eggs clearly showed a spike in attendance and weight gain, especially for female students. Noting that 35% of children in Karnataka are stunted, Swati said providing eggs is crucial as they are protein-dense nutritious food ideal for children of growing age.

"The previous government made an announcement to introduce eggs only after sustained protests by children, families and civil society. Kannadiga voters now obviously expect corruption-free governance. So the new government must ensure that it fulfils the promise to provide eggs in every school and also extend them to all anganwadis every day," she said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in the recent budget, announced the extension of the scheme to Class 9 and 10 students too, while mandating the distribution of eggs twice a week.

"When the government makes a decision, they have to make sure all the systems are in place for implementation and proper functioning. Instead, the government just makes token announcements and implementation is pathetic. Eggs at least enhance the taste and quality of their boring and bland food. It is sad that this is not being given the seriousness it deserves," said Dr Slyvia Karpagam, a community medicine expert.

She also suggested that the government can collaborate with local women's groups, poultry associations or the state egg coordination committee to ensure a regular supply of eggs.

Bangle rumour busted

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a tweet recently clarified a piece of fake news making rounds on various social media sites. "A false news is being spread widely that the state government has issued guidelines banning the wearing of bangles by Bisi Oota workers (midday meal workers). In fact, the central government has issued a guideline regarding Poshan Yojana, banning the wearing of bracelets by the workers," he said in a tweet, dismissing that the government had issued a guideline regarding jewellery worn by midday meal workers. The PM Poshan guidelines say that no watches, rings, jewellery or bangles should be worn during cooking, serving and distribution where there is a danger of contamination of the product.

College student set ablaze

In a horrifying incident, a college student in Bengaluru was kidnapped and set on fire, said the police.

The victim has been brought to Victoria Hospital, where it is said that his condition is critical. The college student, Shashank, is an RR Nagar resident.

Shashank is said to have been in love with a girl who was his distant relative from Mysuru, according to the police. This relationship was opposed by the parents on both sides. On July 3, when the girl arrived in Bengaluru, Shashank is said to have taken her to his house.

When the girl's parents and other family members learned of this, they broke into the house, attacked Shashank, and took the girl with them. This happened on July 10.

Shashank's father Ranganath dropped him off at college on Saturday. He is said to have been abducted by a group of people as he waited for the bus after the day's classes ended.

According to the police, the kidnappers bound his hands and legs, doused him in flammable liquid, and set him ablaze. Shashank extinguished the fire with the aid of others and called his family.

Shashank sustained severe burn wounds over his body and the police are investigating the matter. **BMB**

Share transfer halted

The High Court has restrained the chairman of TD Power System Ltd (TDPSL) and several others from transferring shares worth Rs 555 crore of the company.

The court passed the interim order on a petition by Vijay Ravindra Kirloskar, the chairman of city-based Kirloskar Electric Company (KEC) who founded TDPSL in 1999.

Kirloskar along with the several KEC Welfare Trusts had moved the high court seeking a direction to several persons who hold 2.51 crore shares worth Rs 555 crore in the company, not to transfer or sell them in the stock market. Kirloskar and the Trusts had approached a commercial court in Bengaluru seeking an injunction against the chairman of TDPSL and others from alienating Rs 2.51 crore shares of TDPSL held by them. **PTI**

Dangerous, tipsy and veering behind the wheel

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The traffic police have registered 1,963 cases of drunken driving in the first six months of 2023.

The city is witnessing several accidents where the accused is in a state of intoxication; citizens say that lack of enforcement is to be blamed for this.

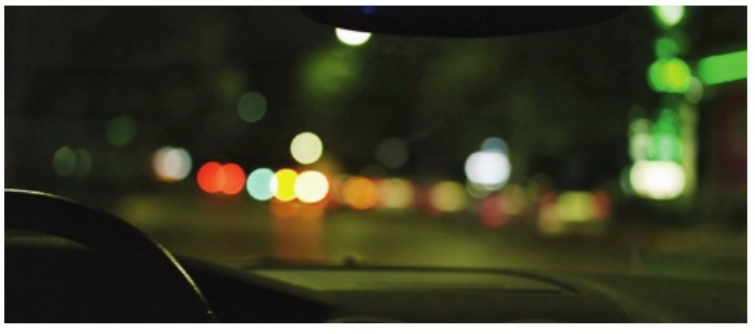
In June, a delivery executive died in RR Nagar after being hit by a car whose driver was intoxicated. The driver had dragged the victim for about 100 metres. He had had a party with his friends and was on his way back when the accident happened.

A case was registered at Byatarayanapura traffic station.

Vinayak was driving the car in a drunken state around 1:45 in the late night and hit the delivery boy's bike near the metro station.

Vinod Jacob, of Namma Bengaluru Foundation says that he can spot very few cops on the road, especially during weekends.

"Everyone is aware about the pockets in Indiranagar, Koramangala and Mahadevapura where maximum drunk and drive cases take place. One thing that I have noticed is there are few places where you can spot police,



and especially there are no police during weekends. The traffic police is relying on AI cameras to catch traffic violations, but intoxicated drivers are not something that can be caught by technology, for that you actually need people on the ground. There should also be awareness campaigns by the police, where you tell people that one person who is driving should be sober," said Jacob.

MN Anucheth, joint commissioner of police, traffic, said that they are physically catching people who are driving intoxicated.

"We have tied up with NIMHANS to get quantifiable data regarding road user behaviour. Along with it, we do awareness drives at specific locations during specific times of the night. We have changed our Standard Operating Procedure to have only the inspector to do these drives along with a team. They wear body cameras during the drive to increase transparency," he said.

After darkness, there will be light

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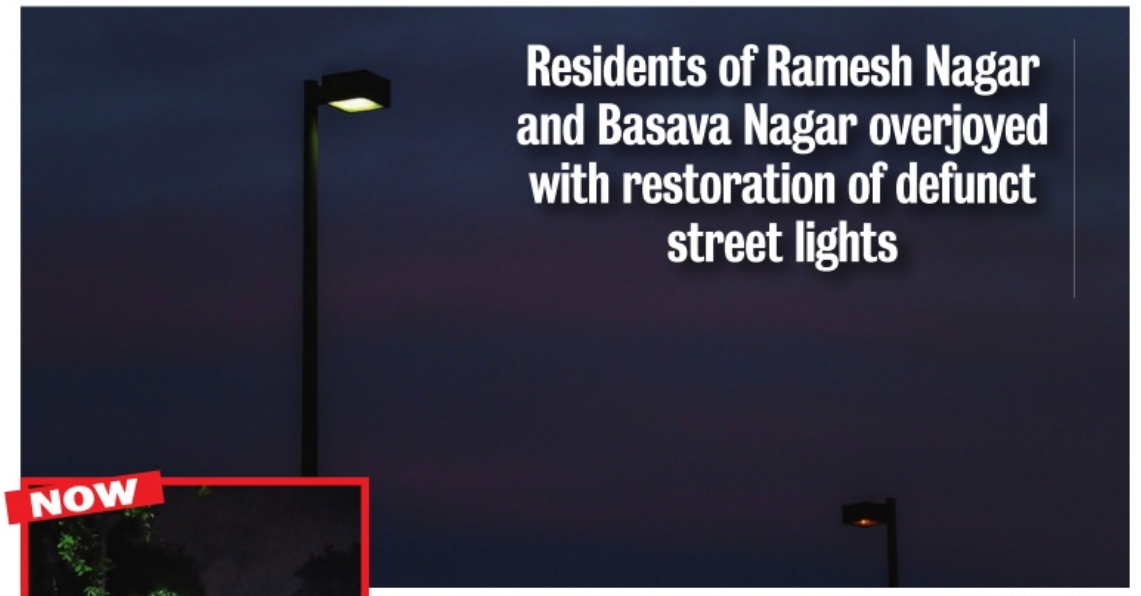

Citizens walking on Basavanagar Main Road at night would face a lot of trouble; inset: With some lights fixed, the area is better lit now

The residents of Ramesh Nagar and Basava Nagar, who walk on Basavanagar Main Road at night, are very happy with the restoration of street lights that were defunct for many days. Bangalore Mirror reported about the issue (The Unbearable Darkness of Being) on July 11, narrating the problems of pedestrians walking on the road at night.

"We are very happy with the restoration of more than half of the street lights on this road. It was very difficult and scary to walk on this road in the absence of street lights. Now it is easy and convenient to walk on this road. I want to thank the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities and those responsible for the restoration of the street lights," said a woman pedestrian walking on the road on Saturday night.

Thanking the civic body for ensuring the streetlights are functioning, Basavaraj, another pedestrian, said that he wanted the authorities to restore the remaining defunct street lights to ensure the entire road is well-lit. "The street lights department of the BBMP has to trim tree branches that are blocking the light to ensure proper lighting on this road. I hope the authorities concerned will do the needful without any delay," he told Bangalore Mirror.

Krishna Murthy, a resident of the area, told BM the restoration of the street lights would benefit many people who go to work from Ramesh Nagar and Basava Nagar to other places like Marathahalli and Kundalahalli to reach home safely at night.

Meanwhile, Vignana Nagar ward's former corporator, SG Nagaraj, said that he brought the issue of defunct street lights to the notice of BBMP's street lights department. "The engineer told me the street lights became defunct due to a damaged electric cable. I will advise the engineer to restore the remaining street lights for the benefit of hundreds of pedestrians who have to depend on this road to reach their destinations at night," he said.

"We are very happy with the restoration of more than half of the street lights on this road. It was very difficult and scary to walk on this road in the absence of lights – Pedestrian

BANGALORE IMPACT MIRROR

Bangalore Mirror
There are around 30 light poles with LED bulbs on the 800-m stretch from HAL Main Road to Ramesh Nagar. Of these, not a single light is functioning
The unbearable darkness of being
Low frequency of BMTC buses forces most people to walk home
LIGHTS OFF HERE TOO

BM's report on July 13 spoke about the area being enveloped in darkness

Presents for a rainy day

Pourakarmikas in/ around Cox Town get raincoats, tomatoes

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Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president and Ragini Dwivedi

Sunday was an 'all-smiles day' for around 50 pourakarmikas working in and around Cox Town in Bengaluru East. Bharathinagar Residents' Forum president NS Ravi and Sandalwood actress Ragini Dwivedi distributed much-needed raincoats and one kilogram of tomatoes each to the women pourakarmikas.

"I am happy to have a raincoat as it is necessary during the monsoon. This is the first time I am getting a raincoat. Ravi sir has also provided tomatoes for us. Additionally, we are happy that we got a chance to meet actress Ragini Dwivedi and receive the raincoat and tomatoes from her," said Narasamma, one of the pourakarmika.

Lakshmi, another pourakarmika, said, "I want to thank Ravi sir and Ragini Dwivedi madam for distributing these. I am not able to buy tomatoes as I have to pay more than Rs 100 per kg. The tomatoes given to me will last for a week," said Lakshmi.

The pourakarmikas mentioned that they never forget the Pongal celebrations organized in front of Gangamma Devi Temple, attended by prominent personalities, including police officers and Sandalwood actors.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, Ravi said that it gives him immense pleasure to help the needy. "Pourakarmikas have been contributing a lot to society by keeping surroundings neat and clean. They have been working very hard to clear garbage. I want them to attend duty without any hassles during the monsoon. I thought a raincoat would be the best gift for them," said Ravi.

Appreciating Ravi for this gesture, Ragini advised him to organise more functions for the benefit of needy people. "Most of the pourakarmikas cannot afford to buy tomatoes because the price of one kg of tomatoes is above Rs 200. It will be too much for them. The raincoats given to them will enable them to either go home or attend duty during the monsoon without any problems," said the actress.

During the pandemic, Ravi and Ragini had also distributed groceries among grave diggers.

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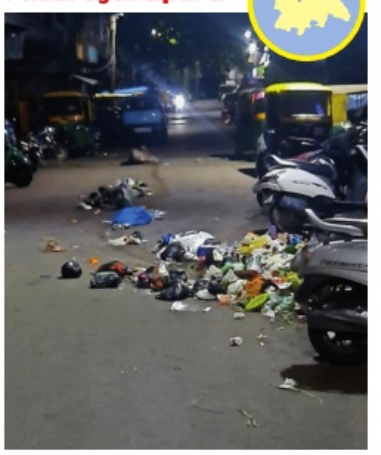
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Health hazard
Padarayanapura

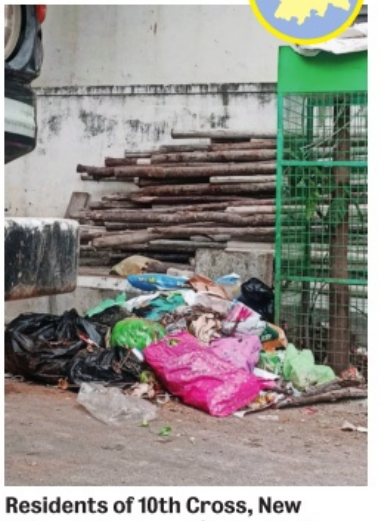


Garbage has been dumped on Padarayanapura 7 main road and residents are suffering from stench and skin rashes.

Poor pavement
Marathahalli

The footpath near Marathahalli Police Station is in poor condition and needs attention.

Smelly alley
Thippasandra



Residents of 10th Cross, New Thippasandra are facing the issue of neighbors dumping garbage beneath their apartment windows.

Women dog feeders vulnerable to assault

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Women who feed stray dogs seem to be vulnerable to threats and intimidation from quarrelsome people in the city. A group of people not only threatened a dog feeder with dire consequences for helping voiceless strays but also tried to assault her husband who came to her rescue.

The incident took place at the Supreme Residency Layout near Kodichikkanahalli in Bommanahalli police jurisdiction. According to the complaint lodged with Bommanahalli Police, a couple passing on a two-wheeler and others quarreled with Sadhana Hegde for letting a stray dog, which was adopted by her, stay on the road. "The couple misunderstood the stray dog. They thought the dog would chase them. I tried my best to explain to them that they need not worry or be afraid of the dog, but they did not listen to me. They began using filthy language and threatened me. Meanwhile, a resident of House No 126/A also arrived at the spot and threatened my husband. I do not know who they are," Hegde told Bangalore Mirror.

Sadhana Hegde (above) and the stray dogs (left) she feeds and cares for

She said that she has requested the police to summon the accused persons and warn them. "The police have registered a Non-Cognizable Report (NCR). They promised to register a First Information Report (FIR) after investigating my complaint," she said.

According to her, the stray dog delivered 11 pups, and she got nine pups adopted by people, and there are pups with her. All three are vaccinated and spayed. "As the street folks kept screaming and creating hysteria, the dog was kept inside. Someone or the other keeps saying they will kill her or get her relocated," she said.

It is said evident that intimidation and threats were not confined only to Hegde. A similar incident took place in Hebbagodi Police jurisdiction a few days ago. Two men not only assaulted Nabaneeta but also tried to molest her for feeding dogs.

In another incident, some people attacked Vidya Rani in Jayanagar 5th Block a few days ago.

Meanwhile, Arun Prasada, an animal activist from Wilson Garden, said that the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board (KAWB), the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) should create more public awareness programs on animal rights. "Under Article 51a(g) of the Indian Constitution, it is the duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment and have compassion for all living creatures," Prasad said.

'Metro Mitra' to your rescue

Brand new app coming soon to fill metro-commute gaps

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In an attempt to fill the gaps with regard to first and last-mile connectivity from metro stations in the city, an auto union, in collaboration with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), is coming up with an application named 'Metro Mitra.' This application will allow commuters to purchase metro tickets as well as auto rides for first and last-mile connectivity at once.

The initiative has been taken up by the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU), which was also involved in building Namma Yatri. The application allows metro passengers to book an auto ride along with the purchase of a metro ticket. This can be done either through the BMRCL's application or Metro's WhatsApp chatbot feature. The ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) model is being used to run the application, which is set to go for trials beginning Monday. The initiative also aims to instil professionalism back into the auto community by following the government meter fare model. However, there will be an additional flat fare charge of Rs 10 for pick-up and technology charges. Once the auto ride is booked, the commuter will receive a one-time password (OTP) along with other ride details. The designated auto driver will pick up the commuter from Metro Mitra zones created for auto drivers in the vicinity of metro stations.

BangaloreMirror
ATTACK OF THE AUTO GANG
City Railway station seems to be hub for auto drivers to gang up against passengers and crowd them out

BM's report on July 9 spoke of increasing agression from auto drivers in the city

The initiative has been taken up by the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU)

Passengers are eager for its implementation as many complain about not being able to find ways to fulfill last and first-mile connectivity. "I have to get off at the metro station in JP Nagar and take an auto to reach my residence in BTM layout. I often try to book them through applications like Namma Yatri, Ola, or Uber, but if the new application is rolled out, it will be much more convenient. It will leave no room for doubt as many times I have not been able to find an auto for last-mile connectivity through aggregators and have had to pay extra," said Ashish, a frequent commuter. Another commuter said that it will also help stop fleecing by auto drivers – a massive issue faced by passengers in the city.

> **"It will leave no room for doubt as many times I have not been able to find an auto for last-mile connectivity through aggregators and have had to pay extras**
>
> – Ashish, commuter

Inspector suspended in Kolar

A Circle Police Inspector in Kolar has been suspended from service for negligence in wake of an "honour killing" case reported from the district, an official statement said.

IGP, Central Range, Ravikanthe Gowda has issued the suspension orders of Kamasamudra Circle Inspector PJ Madhukar in this regard on Sunday.

The horrific incident of a father reportedly strangling his daughter to death for falling in love with a man belonging to the Dalit community was reported from Bodagurki village near Bangarapet town in Kolar on June 27.

The man, after coming to know about the incident, died by suicide.

The ill-fated couple were identified as Keerthi, 20, and Gangadhar, 24. While Keerthi hailed from Golla (Yadav) community, Gangadhar belonged to the Dalit community and both were residents of Bodagurki village in Kamasamudra hobli.

When Keerthi continued her love affair, the parents tried to convince her to stop it. Her father, Krishna Murthy, had questioned her, and this had led to heated arguments between Keerthi and the family members. In a fit of rage, he allegedly strangled daughter to death. **– IANS**

3 drown in backwaters

In a tragic incident, three youngsters drowned while swimming in Kaveri river backwaters in Meenakshipura in Mysuru district , police said on Sunday.

The rescue team managed to fish out one body and is continuing the search operation.

On Saturday, five students had gone to swim in the backwaters, but due to strong water currents, Bharath, Praveen, and Varun, all 20 years old, drowned, while two managed to swim to safety.

Of the three drowned, Bharat's body has been fished out. **–IANS**

Karnataka emerges as epicentre for political realignment ahead of polls

Congress-led state government prepares for the crucial meeting as parties consider alliances and collaborations

| Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Political parties align and collaborate for game changing Lok Sabha polls

Is Karnataka becoming the epicentre for the realignment of political parties? This has recently emerged as a significant hub for political realignment, with various parties hinting at alliances and collaborations ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

While the Congress-led State Government is busy preparing to welcome opposition leaders for a crucial meeting in Bengaluru, the JD(S) and BJP are hinting at rapprochement and even planning for a tie-up for the next year's Lok Sabha polls.

Speculation is rife that former CM HD Kumaraswamy may take part in this week's National Democratic Alliance (NDA) meeting. Over the last few weeks, HDK (Haradanahalli Devegowda Kumaraswamy) has shown a soft corner towards the saffron party. In fact, on more than one occasion, HDK criticised the Congress government for raking up the PayCM campaign, which demanded proof of corruption against the BJP. On Sunday, former CM Basavaraj Bommai hinted at talks regarding the JD(S). He stated that the results of the discussion will determine future political developments.

"That is for the discussion between our leadership and JD(S) President H D Deve Gowda," Bommai said in response to a question about the possibility of JD(S) joining NDA. Speaking to reporters, he added, "The future political developments will be based on the result of those discussions."

Earlier, BJP veteran BS Yediyurappa had said his party and the JD(S) would fight the Congress government in the state together. Kumaraswamy, on his part, had said that a decision on an electoral understanding for the Lok Sabha polls would be taken when the situation arises.

> **"The meeting was a great success as we were able to discuss various important issues that threaten our democratic polity and came to an agreement on unitedly fighting the next General Elections**
> – Kharge

Meanwhile, the second meeting of leaders of the opposition parties is scheduled to begin on July 17 in Bengaluru. Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, has already invited top opposition leaders to participate in the second unity meeting. In a letter addressed to top opposition party leaders, Kharge reminded them of their participation in the June 23 opposition meeting held in Patna, called by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "The meeting was a great success as we were able to discuss various important issues that threaten our democratic polity and came to a unanimous agreement on unitedly fighting the next General Elections," Kharge said in his invitation letter.

According to sources, top leaders of at least 24 political parties would attend the second Opposition unity meeting being convened by Congress in Karnataka's Bengaluru from July 17 to 18.

The sources also mentioned that eight new parties have extended their support to the Opposition parties' efforts to present a united front against the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "After last month's mega opposition meet in Bihar's Patna, top leaders of as many as 24 political parties will be attending the second meeting, which is going to take place in Karnataka's Bengaluru," the sources said.

"Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (MDMK), Kongu Desa Makkal Katchi (KDMK), Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), All India Forward Bloc, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), Kerala Congress (Joseph), and Kerala Congress (Mani) are among the new political parties that will be joining the meeting," they added.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Punctuality in assembly session takes centre stage

In a recent assembly session, punctuality emerged as a prominent concern when the Minister for Primary and Secondary Education, Madhu Bangarappa, arrived late. The Speaker of the Assembly, UT Khader, known for his emphasis on punctuality, took the opportunity to address the issue. He questioned the Minister's commitment to instilling discipline among school children while setting a tardy example himself. However, acknowledging his mistake, Minister Bangarappa swiftly apologised for his late arrival and promised to actively promote punctuality moving forward.

Open the gates

Energy Minister KJ George raised concerns about traffic congestion due to ongoing Metro construction. The inconvenience is caused by having only one gate, Vidhana Soudha the west gate, open for entry and exit. Speaker UT Khader suggested leaving home earlier by at least half an hour until measures are taken to reopen the east gate. In response, George expressed his willingness to leave home two hours early but emphasised the need to reopen the east gate. Other legislators supported the demand for the east gate to be opened during the session.

Spilling the beans

In a recent session, former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy disclosed that he was offered the Chief Minister's post by the BJP before forming a coalition government with the Congress in 2018. HDK mentioned having a discussion of over 90 minutes with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during which he was offered unwavering support for his tenure as CM. Expressing regret over rejecting the offer, HDK criticised the Congress party for labelling their alliance as the BJP B-team, emphasising the importance of political survival for any party.

Security, please!

First-time MLA Kariyamma, representing Devadurga Assembly constituency in Raichur, surprised everyone by requesting security during the session. Sharing her challenges as a new legislator, Kariyamma expressed concerns about security issues during her constituency visits and even found strangers occupying her seat in the Assembly. Seeking reassurance, she requested enhanced security measures to address these issues.

Trolls don't matter

Speaker UT Khader offered valuable advice to the newly elected legislators making their debut in the session. He encouraged them not to fear online trolls and emphasised that the Assembly has always been a platform for open and free expression. Khader urged the legislators to speak up, as even minor mistakes are acceptable, as the Assembly is not an exam hall to be judged based on marks. Developing their oratory skills and confidence would be more important in their legislative journey.

Speaker's unique speaking style!

The assembly session experienced a lighter moment when Vijayapura MLA Basangounda Patil Yatnal humorously requested an app to understand the Speaker's unique speaking style. Yatnal highlighted the diversity of the Kannada language across the state and expressed difficulty in comprehending the Speaker's speeches. Drawing a comparison to translator apps for different English accents, Yatnal playfully suggested a similar app to facilitate understanding of the Speaker's distinctive style.

— Sridhar Vivan

Tourists restricted from Dudhsagar waterfall, no walking on tracks

Personnel from the Goa police and the forest department on Sunday stopped several hundred visitors who were walking on railway tracks to reach the picturesque Dudhsagar waterfall, an official said.

The Goa government last week banned people from visiting waterfalls in the state after two persons drowned at Mainapi waterfall in Sanguem taluka.

Dudhsagar waterfall is located on the Goa-Karnataka border, and the road through the forest has been closed as rivers are in spate.

Several hundred visitors tried to walk along the tracks of the South Western Railway line to reach Dudhsagar after alighting at Collem station in South Goa. All visitors were stopped much ahead of the waterfall by personnel from the police and forest department, a senior official said. Visitors were gearing up to walk 11 km along the railway line to reach the waterfall, he said.

Following the incident, the South Western Railway released a tweet urging people not to walk along the tracks. "We urge you to savour the beauty of Dudhsagar Falls from within your coach. Walking on/along tracks not only endangers your own safety but is also an offence under sections 147, 159 of the Railway Act. It can also endanger the safety of trains," the South Western Railway tweeted.

– PTI

Monkey attacks infant in Chitradurga

In a shocking incident, a 13-day-old baby was attacked by a monkey in Chitradurga district on Sunday. The condition of the baby, who has been admitted at a hospital, is said to be serious.

The incident is reported from Torekolammanahalli village in Challakere taluk. The baby born to Manjula and Siddesh couple has suffered injuries in head and forehead. The monkey came into the house and attacked the baby.

The mother immediately rushed and shooed away the monkey. The baby was rushed to the district hospital of Chitradurga. The villagers have stated that the monkey had come to the village a week ago and demanded that the authorities must catch it before it attacks more people.

– IANS

Musk says Twitter has lost half its advertising revenue

FALLING SLOWLY

Twitter has lost roughly half of its advertising revenue, according to owner Elon Musk, since he bought the social media platform for $44 billion last October.

Musk, who has been outspoken about the difficulties facing the company, broke the figures in a tweet response to a user who was giving suggestions on financing for the platform.

"We're still negative cash flow, due to ~50% drop in advertising revenue plus heavy debt load," the billionaire tweeted Saturday.

"Need to reach positive cash flow before we have the luxury of anything else," he added, without further elaboration.

Insider Intelligence has reported that Twitter was set to earn less than $3 billion in revenue in 2023, down one-third from 2022.

Changes instituted by Musk since his takeover of Twitter have turned off users and advertisers alike. Earlier this month, Musk announced that Twitter was limiting verified accounts to reading 10,000 tweets a day, in a bid "to address extreme levels of data scraping" and "system manipulation" by third-party platforms.

Non-verified users -- the free accounts that make up the majority of users -- are limited to reading 1,000 tweets per day, while new unverified accounts are limited to 500 tweets.

Twitter has also said TweetDeck, a popular program that allows users to monitor several accounts at once, will only be available to verified users from next month.

The changes came as Threads, an app launched by Facebook parent Meta as a rival to Twitter, registered more than 100 million users in its first five days.

Earlier this year, the artificial intelligence app ChatGPT, created by OpenAI, took two months to reach the same number of active users.

According to some estimates, Threads has now reached 150 million users, with India leading the way, boosted by its link to Instagram that gives it a built-in audience of more than two billion users and spares the platform the challenge of starting from scratch.

Twitter is thought to have around 200 million regular users but it has suffered repeated technical failures since Musk bought the platform and sacked thousands of staff.

Many have expressed privacy concerns over Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg's new platform, which asks users to give Meta permission to track them closely across the internet.

Those demands have delayed the launch of Threads in Europe, where new legislation limits the ability of Meta to track and share data across its family of platforms.

Its business model revolves around sucking up personal data to use for targeted ads and Threads accounts are linked to Instagram accounts.

But few expect Threads to maintain its embargo in Europe indefinitely.

European law expert Alexandre de Streel said big tech firms would probably be hammering out compliance issues with the EU over the coming months.

"I think it's more a question of time to understand the scope of the legislation and have a dialogue with the commission," he said.

Musk has also threatened to sue Meta for stealing trade secrets and intellectual property, claims denied by the company.

In a letter to Zuckerberg, published by the online news outlet Semafor this week, Musk's lawyer also accused the company of recruiting dozens of former Twitter employees who "had and continue to have access to Twitter's trade secrets and other highly confidential information."

The two men have been bickering for years, but things have become heated since it became clear Meta intended to compete with Twitter. **AFP**

Elon Musk responded to a Twitter user who was giving suggestions on financing: "We're still negative cash flow, due to ~50% drop in advertising revenue plus heavy debt load." The billionaire added in his Tweet, "Need to reach positive cash flow before we have the luxury of anything else"

Threads reaches 150 mn sign-ups despite usage drop

Meta's Twitter rival Threads has crossed 150 million user sign-ups despite a usage drop. Meta launched Threads on July 5 for iOS and Android users in 100 countries, and it is among the top free apps on the App Store.

According to Data.ai, the app has surpassed more than 150 million downloads worldwide, within seven days after its launch.

"It did so 5.5 times faster than the second-fastest to that point, Niantic's Pokemon GO, which has held the largest app launch title since it debuted in July 2016," the report said. Recent information revealed that Threads has gained the largest user presence in specific markets, with India leading the way, accounting for approximately 32 per cent of its downloads.

Following India is Brazil, contributing to approximately 22 per cent of Threads' installations, and the US, representing nearly 16 per cent of the total. Completing the top five markets for Threads are Mexico which accounts for 8 per cent of downloads, and Japan with 5 per cent, the report said.

Threads surpassed 100 million user sign-ups within five days after its launch. The app crossed 2 million sign-ups in just two hours after launch, 10 million users in seven hours and 30 million in just 12 hours. **-IANS**

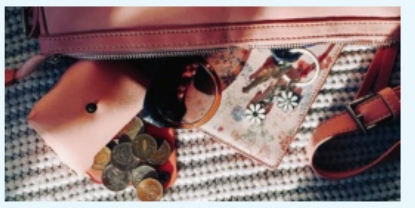
BITS & BYTES

'LIFE SAVING' APP CRASHES

Panic gripped people with diabetes, after a popular 'life saving' iPhone app for monitoring blood sugar stopped working on some Apple devices after getting an update.

The FreeStyle Libre app, by healthcare major Abbott, works by monitoring blood sugar levels through a small sensor inserted into the body. The app connects to a continuous glucose monitor (CGM) which is inserted under the skin in the arm or belly. It provides real-time updates to people with Type 1 diabetes, meaning they don't have to keep taking blood samples by pricking their fingers. **IANS**

TRACKING STOLEN GOODS



An Apple AirTag has helped to track stolen possessions, resulting in the burglar's arrest. The victim's handbag and the car keys, which contained an electronic device linked to the fob, were taken by the burglar Dylan Balmer when he broke into her home through an unlocked door.

"Although he unlocked the car using the keys, he refrained from stealing any of its contents during the early morning break-in at the Hartlepool property," reports AppleInsider. According to the proceedings at Teesside Crown Court, after being located, Balmer was confronted by the victim at a Premier Inn nearby for having her keys.CCTV footage from a nearby hotel helped identify him. **IANS**

INTEGRATION MODEL

Tech giant Samsung could integrate ChatGPT into its Internet Browser app. This information was revealed by the code found in Samsung Internet Browser v22.0.0.54, reports Android Authority. The strings hint that ChatGPT integration in the Internet Browser could be an experimental Labs feature. The browser is expected to make it easier for users to run queries on ChatGPT without having to visit the ChatGPT website.

"There is a ChatGPT settings placeholder and another one for selecting the ChatGPT model," the report said. Users will be able to utilise ChatGPT to summarise existing web pages, which could serve as a useful browser highlight feature.

Commuters want BBMP to fix crumbling bus station

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which is a bane for monsoon. The pillar of the bus bay is damp and the place around the pillar is dirty.

"It is the responsibility of the BBMP to maintain it properly. What is the use of spending lakhs of rupees for the construction of bus bays or bus shelters in the city when the authorities fail to maintain them properly? Most of the bus shelters constructed in the city are not serving the purpose. Some of them are constructed unscientifically. Many of them have no information on BMTC bus services and have no seating facilities," said Vinay Srinivasan of Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP for neglecting the maintenance of the bus bay, Pramod Sastry, a commuter waiting to board a Jayanagar-bound BMTC bus, said that it has become tough for the commuters to wait at the bus shelter or bus bay due to the leaky roof. "Generally, bus shelters or bus bays are supposed to provide a shelter for BMTC commuters to protect themselves from rain but this bus shelter is unfit for the commuters during the monsoon. I urge the BBMP to repair the roof as early as possible," Sastry.

With most of the commuters waiting on the road, the BMTC buses stop on the road in front of BBMP entrance thus causing traffic jams during the peak hours. "It has become tough for us to wait on the road for buses. We have to run for shelter whenever it rains. There is no guarantee of BMTC buses halting at the bus bay if we wait here whenever it rains," Ashok K, a commuter, revealed.

BBMP Traffic Engineering Cell executive engineer was not available for comment.

Professor MN Srihari, a traffic expert, said that the BBMP does not know how to maintain bus shelters. "The BBMP is interested in constructing new bus shelters for obvious reasons. Their intention is to make money. They will not get money if they maintain existing bus shelters," said Prof Srihari.

Jamari wears betway Derby sash in emphatic fashion

Ikram Khan
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
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The winner of the Fillies Championship Stakes, Jamari from the stables of champion trainer Pesi Shroff's yard pulled the plug and fused out her 10 rivals to land the Derby riches on Sunday. The classy filly piloted in resplendent fashion by Umesh tracked the leader Champions Way for most part of the 2000 metres classic trip before she assumed command at the top of the straight and then quickly put the race to bed in the final furlong. The `Queen' filly won the blue riband, the betway Bangalore Summer Derby by a whopping seven lengths from another filly in the fray Auspicious Queen and it again proved to be `Ladies Day Out' at the Bangalore Turf Club after the best filly on the Indian racing circuit, Juliette won the champions of Champions event, the Indian Turf Invitation Cup on the first Sunday of March.

Pesi Shroff who was a trifle disappointed after Christofle suffered a setback in training a couple of days before the mega event was delighted with the effort of the champion filly. "She was maintaining her form after her first classic success and she really produced a top draw performance in the big event on the big day," said Pesi Shroff. The railbirds who enjoyed the action on the D-day provided the champion filly and her connections a standing ovation despite the fact that most punters punted big on the pipping hot favourite Synthesis from Rajesh Narredu's yard and Destroyer who was fancied strongly by the Kolkata contingent. Destroyer produced a satisfactory performance to finish third ahead of the favourite Synthesis, while the rest lacked the talent and the potential to make their presence felt in the mega event which offered a rich purse of Rs, 98 lakh to the winner.

Winner of betway summer Derby, Jamari piloted by Umesh gallops past the finish line in resplendent style.

Immensely pleased with his success in the richest plum of the season, Umesh disclosed that Jamari was in with a definite chance taking into account that the filly had improved and was enjoying the conditions at this centre. She was only getting better and better each day and I was very confident that Jamari would test the best, said Umesh. Well The filly produced an astounding effort and it was all over bar the shouting, the moment Umesh put the star performer in top gear.

Jamari apart, another Pesi Shroff ward Northern Lights uncorked a champagne effort, chalking out his sixth straight success, winning the BTC Anniversary Cup in fine style. The galloping goldmine piloted by top gun Trevor Patel outclassed his nine rivals and on the strength of this performance is set to claim the Horse Of The Season title.

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CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Mrs. PRIYA KUMARI and Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR residing at 105, Retreat Signaa, belathur main road, Kadugodi, Bengaluru-560067, solemnly affirm that our son was born on 27-12-2020 and was named as RUDRA PRATAP SINGH and we are changing the name as SHAURYA SINGH vide affidavit dated 13-5-2023 sworn before notary M. Krishnamurthy, Bengaluru.

I Ram Chandra Vaibhav S/O, Shivakant Dwivedi R/o P-1502, Purva Palm Beach, Hanumanthapa Layout, Kyalasanahalli, Bengaluru, 560077 have changed my name to Ram Chandra Vaibhav Dwivedi for all purposes.

I Poonam Yadav W/O, Naveen Kumar R/o No.- 279, 23rd Cross, 4th Main , Hsr Layout, Sector-7, Bengaluru, 560102, Karanataka. have changed my name to Poonam

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HEALTH TIP: After shampooing and conditioning, rinse your hair with cold water as it seals the hair cuticles, making hair smoother and shinier

Traction alopecia caused by tight hairstyles can lead to hair loss, so avoid hairstyles that put excessive tension on your hair

Say bye to dry!

Here are some ways to get rid of dry scalp

If you've been unfortunate enough to experience the discomfort of a dry scalp, seek solace in the fact that you're not alone. Dry scalp is a common issue, which plagues men and women alike, and is typically described as a condition wherein the sebaceous glands in the scalp stop producing enough oil to keep the scalp moisturised. If left untreated over a period of time, dry scalp can snowball into the flaky scalp, scalp psoriasis and eventually leave you with other acute problems like severe hair loss.

There are several causes of dry scalp. The first and most obvious is lack of moisture, hydration, and nourishment. When the skin near the roots of your hair does not get enough moisture and nourishment, the scalp becomes dry. Genetics are another reason for dry scalp. If the women in your family are prone to dryness, you're likely to be affected by it too, even if you take reasonably good care of your hair. In this case, you'll need to go that extra mile and focus on perfecting your hair care regime. Environmental factors and pollution can also cause dry scalp – especially if you're spending a lot of time out in the sun, and in traffic. Lack of a proper diet and proper sleep can also result in dryness of the scalp, compounded by brittle hair. Lastly, your own hair care regime may need perfecting, where you focus on scalp health, as well as root-to-tip intensive care.

Tea Tree Oil

The benefits of tea tree oil for skin are well-documented, but it is also a fabulous remedy for scalp health. It can be used on its own, or with another carrier oil, or as shampoo, to treat dry scalp effectively. It nourishes the roots and scalp, and in addition to its hydrating properties, it is also a natural antimicrobial, unclogs the hair follicles of impurities, prevents and treats dead cell formation on the scalp, and is a natural conditioner for the roots of your hair.

Regular Warm Oil Massage

Grandma was right about this! Using a warm, natural oil in your hair can do wonders for dry scalp. For this, you'll need to warm around 100ml of your chosen hair oil and then gently apply it on your hair, taking care to focus on the roots and the scalp, coating every bit of it thoroughly. For extra results, you can wrap your hair up in a shower cap, so that the benefits of the oil have thoroughly seeped in. Leave on for a couple of hours at least. Rinse and wash your hair well. Here are the three different kinds of oils you should be looking at.

> **Dry scalp is a common issue, typically described as a condition wherein sebaceous glands in the scalp stop producing enough oil**

Coconut oil

This age-old remedy has stood the test of time! It works on all hair types, is locally available and affordable. Coconut oil is perhaps the most ideal for Indian skin types and climatic conditions, to address scalp issues. Rich in medium chain fatty acids, these contain antibacterial and antimicrobial properties that not only moisturise but weed out any infections that could be causing dry scalp. It is especially rich in lauric acid, which boosts cellular health and can prevent loss of protein, all of which result in a healthy, hydrated scalp. For best results, try and use organic extra virgin coconut oil, which offers its benefits in the purest form.

Castor oil

The oil extracted from castor seeds has many health benefits, but is particularly good for hair health. If you have exceptionally dry scalp, castor oil is ideal; it penetrates well into the scalp, and the essential fatty acids present to ensure that the pH balance of the scalp is maintained well. This prevents the occurrence of dandruff and flaky skin, and also boosts blood circulation under the scalp, ensuring healthy, balanced skin.

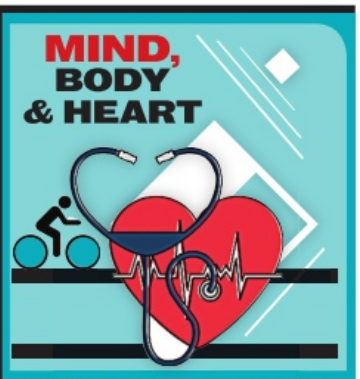
Argan oil

Extracted from the kernels of the argan tree, found in Morocco, argan oil is non-native to India but has been catching up recently and for good reason. It is replete with both vitamin E and antioxidants, making it the perfect ingredient to get rid of dry scalp. It can soothe dryness, reducing inflammation.

Egg Yolk

An egg yolk mask is perhaps one of the most potent remedies for dry scalp, and for one very good reason – it is the best source of B Vitamins, essential for hair and scalp health! Vitamins B1 (thiamin), B2 (riboflavin) and B5 (pantothenic acid) are good for overall scalp and hair wellness. Topically applying egg yolks makes for a fabulous home remedy for dry scalp. The egg yolk works as a moisturiser for dry locks and dry scalp, allowing its treasure trove of nutrients to permeate through the hair roots and into the scalp in the most natural way, sealing in hydration and preventing dryness. What's more, it helps retain the hair's natural sheen and restores the skin on the scalp to optimum health. Crack open two eggs, and then beat the egg yolks well in a bowl.
Apply all over the scalp and roots of the hair, and leave on for an hour. Rinse well and follow up with your usual shampoo and conditioner regime.

—Neeti Jaychander (Femina)



All you need to know about...

Danger of gum disease

Serious health issues
Most people don't link oral illness to significant health problems, but mounting research indicates that mouth bacteria are crucial in systemic diseases including colon cancer and heart disease. According to a recent Forsyth Institute study, amyloid plaque, a characteristic of Alzheimer's disease, is produced in connection with periodontal (gum) disease.

From gum to brain
In their paper published in the Journal of Neuroinflammation, Forsyth scientists and their collaborators at Boston University demonstrate that gum disease can lead to changes in brain cells called microglial cells, which are responsible for defending the brain from amyloid plaque. This plaque is a type of protein that is associated with cell death, and cognitive decline in people with Alzheimer's. The study provides important insight into how oral bacteria makes its way to the brain, and the role of neuroinflammation in Alzheimer's disease.

Obese cells
"In this study, we were asking the question, can oral bacteria cause a change in the brain cells?"The microglial cells the researchers studied are a type of white blood cell responsible for digesting amyloid plaque. Forsyth scientists found that when exposed to oral bacteria the microglial cells became overstimulated and ate too much. "They basically became obese" Dr Kantarci said. "They no longer could digest plaque formations."

'Open wound'
Gum disease causes lesions to develop between the gums and teeth.
Dr Kantarci explained, "It's an open wound that allows the bacteria in your mouth to enter your bloodstream and circulate to other parts of your body."

–ANI

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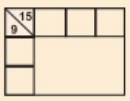
@BangaloreMirror

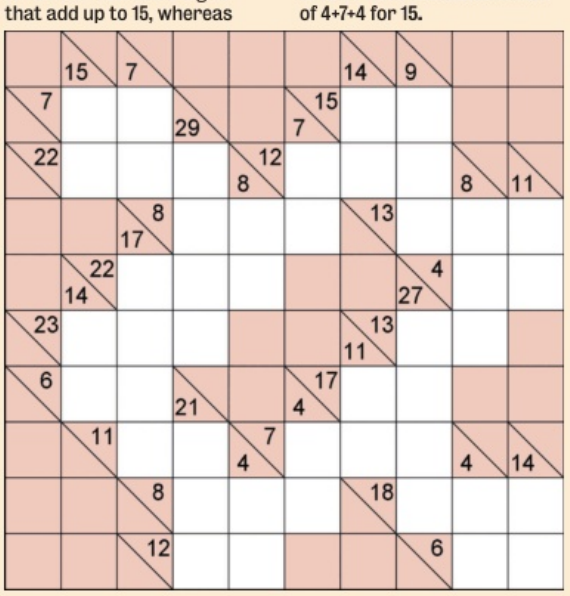
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

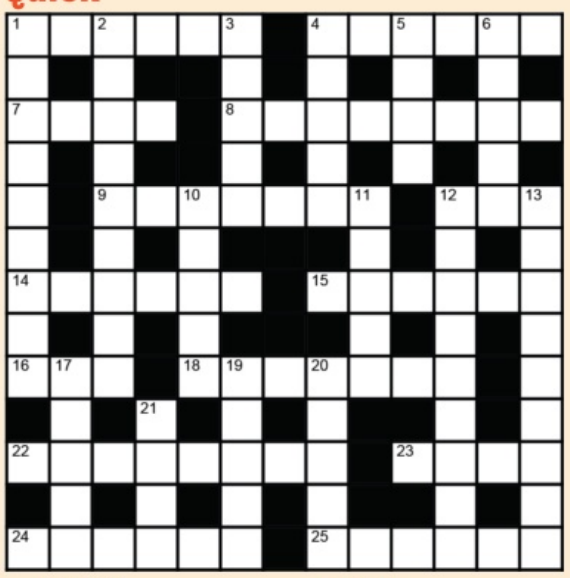


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Greatly surprises someone? (6)
4 Physical injury (6)
7 Elephant's tooth (4)
8 Flying vehicle (8)
9 Hospital on Airport road (7)
12 __ drop silence (3)
14 Entice; appeal (6)
15 It enrages bulls (3,3)
16 Hours, in short (3)
18 American poet and essayist (7)
22 Tolerate patiently? (4,4)
23 The sixth letter of Greek alphabet (4)
24 Make certain? (6)
25 Contusion (6)

DOWN

1 Signature (9)
2 Brings together (9)
3 The Indian Guru? (5)
4 ___ firma : good old earth? (5)
5 Light breezes (4)
6 Plain clothes not a uniform; civvies (5)
10 Hospital employee (5)
11 West Yorkshire city (5)
12 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (9)
13 Bad dream (9)
17 Smells strongly of (5)
19 One of the USA? (5)
20 Recovery prog. (5)
21 Pakistani language (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS T

ZCXHKEDEZV–KBX VNPC NQI XGXQ KBX HUZX US KBX XIWDNKXI VEQI.

Linemaro

My heart is perfect because you are inside

Mindchow

If the doors of perception were cleansed, everything would appear to man as it is, infinite

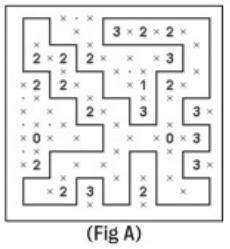
Joke of the day

Who copyrighted the copyright symbol?

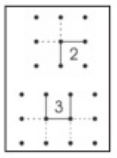
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



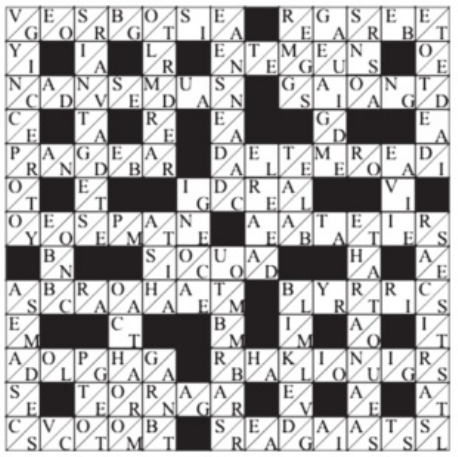
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

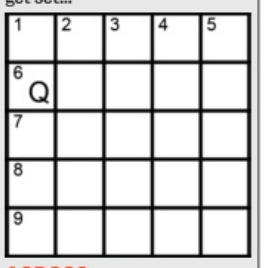
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

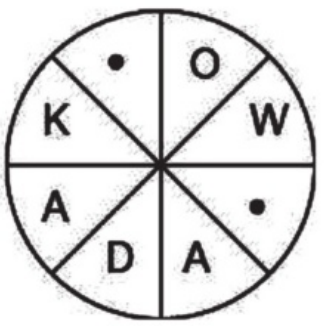
1 Salps; 6 Lab IQ; 7 Haunt; 8 Genoa; 9 Orbed

DOWN

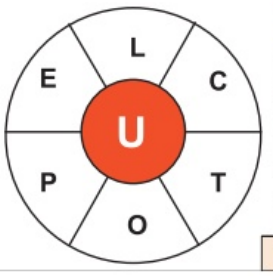
1 QB USA; 2 Log in; 3 Or bah; 4 Nepal; 5 Dates

Mensapuzzle

Fill in the blanks to find a word.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

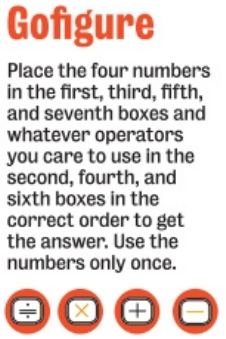
SudokuChallenge

9	3						6	4
				4				
6	5		7		9		2	3
	8		4	7	3		9	
	4		1	8	2		7	
1	6		9		7		8	2
				5				
3	2						5	9

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

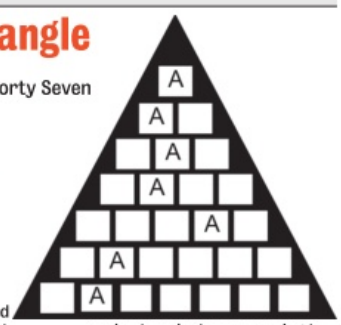
Differences: 1. Arm is added to chair. 2. Lamp is moved. 3. Corner of night stand is not seen. 4. Book cover is different. 5. Pictures on wall are reversed. 6. Music note is lower.

Riddler

Find the names of 5 planets hidden in the following sentences: 1. "What hurts?" asked the doctor. "It's my ear," the patient cried. 2. "Steven, use the screwdriver to build those shelves." 3. Everyone takes a turn during Monopoly. 4. "Cassie, you ran us over with your bicycle!" 5. "Sam, arsenic is poisonous. I read the definition in the dictionary."

Alpha triangle

1 Blood gr.
2 Atomic number Forty Seven
3 Scrap of cloth
4 Tantrum
5 Majestic
6 Use mouthwash
7 Bargainer



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Lisa and Steve just got stranded on an island that has two palm trees.
Wayno & Piraro 5-9-23
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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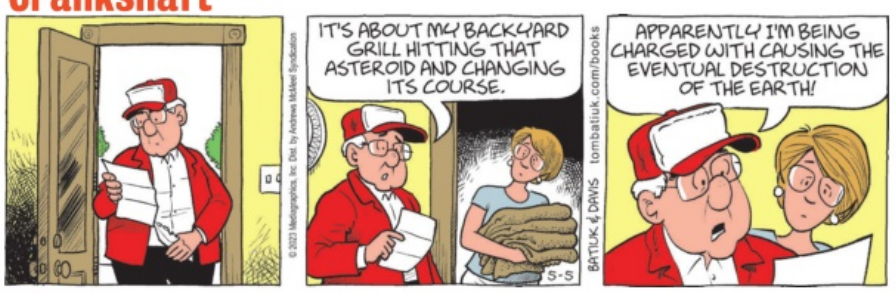
Diamond Lil

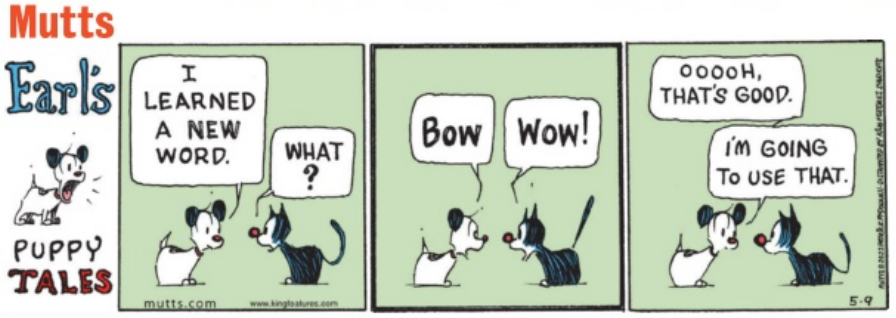
Hart of the city

NEXT TIME JOHN NEEDS LOVE ADVICE, HE SHOULD ASK BRENT.
HE READS A LOT OF MANGA, AND I HEAR THOSE HAVE PLENTY OF ROMANCE STORYLINES.
HEY! YOU REMEMBERED HIS NAME!
BRENT? OF COURSE I KNOW BRENT'S NAME.
I KNOW ALL MY FRIENDS' NAMES, GENE.

Crankshaft


IT'S ABOUT MY BACKYARD GRILL HITTING THAT ASTEROID AND CHANGING ITS COURSE.
APPARENTLY I'M BEING CHARGED WITH CAUSING THE EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
5-5

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily, which may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may pay you good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics as they may waste your precious time.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today is not good. You may feel unhappy and dissatisfied with your current situation. You are advised to keep patience and should not make any decisions in a hurry. Take care of your parents.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may be enthusiastic, and your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your targets. You are likely to go on short work-related trips, which may bring you benefits in the near future. Your colleagues and friends may help you in the completion of some important projects.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by Jupiter and the moon. You may expect to receive rewards for your social services. You will be appreciated by your seniors and may even get promotions. Your losses may convert into profits now, increasing liquidity in the business. You plan to invest more capital into the family business, which will lead to its growth in the near future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel happy, and your health is also good, giving you inner strength and self-confidence. Your consciousness will not allow you to manipulate messy tasks to maintain your reputation in your environment. Your social prestige is likely to increase.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance; otherwise, you may face losses due to your manner of speaking with others. Lovebirds should be careful during discussions; otherwise, it may negatively affect their relationship.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, there may be peace in your mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which will increase liquidity. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing harmony in family life. Singles may likely find a suitable match. Lovebirds may decide to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be very happy as your losses may convert into profits. Your seniors may appreciate your work, and you may experience some changes in terms of promotions or responsibilities at work. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and lovebirds may take important decisions regarding marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, destiny is with you, and your health may be good. You may likely visit a spiritual place with family or friends and plan to donate some amount to a charity. Property-related deals may also be done. An overseas trip related to work is on the cards.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be a victim of conspiracies. Avoid getting involved in controversies. Your strong willpower and blessings from elders may protect you from this critical situation. You are advised to avoid arguments in your love life and also to refrain from rash driving or any adventure tours.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you will be happy and feel peaceful in mind. Your focus towards your goals would be very good. You may likely have romantic moments with your spouse, strengthening your bond. You will also be busy with other domestic issues.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be more enthusiastic, and your performance at work may be good, boosting your rapport with seniors. You may be assigned new responsibilities due to promotions. In legal matters, you may hear good news, and your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control.

KIDZONE

Debjani Chatterjee, 13 Years, MES KK School

Srila Balaraj, 8 Years, Sophia High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru- 560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(1/(3125))·(6/10)
1/(3125)·(3/5)
1/(∜3125³)
1/(∜(5⁵)³)
1/5³
0.008

RIDDLER
1. Earth,
2. Venus,
3. Saturn,
4. Uranus,
5. Mars

BULL'S EYE
clout, clue, coup, coupe, couple, COUPLET, cult, cute, lout, lute, pout, puce, pule

FAST FIVE

S	L	A	P	S
Q	I	B	L	A
U	N	H	A	T
A	G	O	N	E
B	O	R	E	D

STRIKE OUT

S	C	O	O	T	■	S	A	D	I	S	T	S	■	■
S	■	T	O	N	G	A	■	E	■	E	■	T	■	■
A	L	P	H	A	■	R	A	K	I	N	G	S	■	■
M	■	C	■	B	■	I	■	O	■	I	■	■	■	■
A	B	R	A	H	A	M	■	L	Y	R	I	C	■	■
■	B	■	S	C	U	D	■	H	■	I	■	H	■	■
Y	E	S	M	A	N	■	A	B	A	T	E	R	■	■
O	■	E	■	I	D	E	A	■	V	■	■	■	■	■
R	A	G	E	R	■	A	L	T	E	R	E	D	■	■
E	■	A	■	E	■	E	■	D	■	E	■	■	■	■
C	A	V	E	M	A	N	■	G	I	A	N	T	■	■
I	■	A	■	R	■	N	E	G	U	S	■	O	■	■
V	E	R	B	O	S	E	■	E	G	R	E	T	■	■

QUICK

A	M	A	Z	E	S	■	T	R	A	U	M	A	■	■
U	■	S	■	W	■	E	■	I	■	U	■	■	■	■
T	U	S	K	■	A	I	R	C	R	A	F	T	■	■
O	■	E	■	M	■	R	■	S	■	T	■	■	■	■
G	M	A	N	I	P	A	L	■	P	I	N	■	■	■
A	L	L	U	R	E	■	R	E	D	R	A	G	■	■
R	■	B	■	U	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	■
P	■	E	■	S	■	D	■	I	■	H	■	■	■	■
H	R	S	■	E	M	E	R	S	O	N	■	T	■	■
■	E	■	U	■	A	■	E	■	■	E	■	M	■	■
E	■	U	■	A	■	E	■	D	■	I	■	■	■	■
B	E	A	R	W	I	T	H	■	Z	E	T	A	■	■
K	■	D	■	N	■	A	■	T	■	R	■	■	■	■
A	S	S	U	R	E	■	B	R	U	I	S	E	■	■

QUOTE UNCODE
Skepticism – the mark and even the pose of the educated mind.

MENSA PUZZLE
WORKADAY

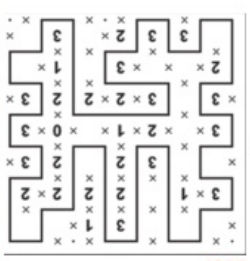
SUDOKU

3	2	7	8	6	4	1	5	9
4	9	8	2	5	1	6	3	7
1	6	5	9	3	7	4	8	2
5	4	9	1	8	2	3	7	6
7	1	3	6	9	5	2	4	8
2	8	6	4	7	3	5	9	1
6	5	4	7	1	9	8	2	3
8	7	2	3	4	6	9	1	5
9	3	1	5	2	8	7	6	4

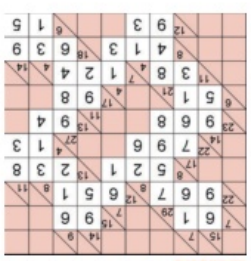
ALPHA TRIANGLE
A, AB, RAG,
RAGE, REGAL,
GARGLE,
HAGGLER.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 + 4 + 3 + 9 = 21
Medium
5 – 2 + 7 + 8 = 18
Hard
4 + 2 – 3 – 1 = 2

LOOP



KAKURO



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Emotional moment

Rashmika Mandanna tears up while watching 'Baby'

Actress Rashmika Mandanna, who is known for her work in the Allu Arjun-starrer 'Pushpa: The Rise', recently got teary eyed while watching the Telugu film 'Baby' which stars Anand Deverakonda, who is actor Vijay Deverakonda's younger brother.

Rashmika saw the movie with her rumoured beau Vijay Deverakonda and later took to the Stories section of her Instagram to share the review of the film.

Sharing the poster of the film in her Instagram story, the actress wrote: "I got to watch #babythemovie I teared up watching the performances so much that I think the scenes are going to be engraved in my heart for a long time.. I congratulate the team."

In a video that surfaced on social media after the special screening, Rashmika was seen with tears in her eyes as she rushed to the lift and left the venue.

'Baby' also stars Vaishnavi Chaitanya, and Viraj Ashwin in the lead roles, with Sai Rajesh serving as the writer and director. Produced by SKN under the Geetha Arts and Mass Movie Makers banner, the movie has generated significant buzz among audiences.

Meanwhile, Rashmika has 'Animal' and 'Pushpa: The Rule' lined up for release. **–IANS**

Strike a pose

These pictures prove that Janhvi Kapoor sure knows how to stir up a storm on her Insta profile

Watch this story come alive on your device by scanning this QR code

Au revoir Jane: France's favourite

English singer and actress Jane Birkin was an icon in her adopted France, catapulted to fame by her turbulent relationship with legendary singer-songwriter Serge Gainsbourg and her heavily accented French, which became her personal style signifier.

She crossed the Channel in 1968, at the age of 22, to star in a film alongside Gainsbourg, who was 18 years her senior.

It was the start of a 13-year relationship that made them France's most famous couple, in the spotlight as much for their bohemian and hedonistic lifestyle as for their work. The doe-eyed Birkin, with her soft voice and androgynous silhouette, quickly became a sex symbol, recording a steamy duo with a growling Gainsbourg in 1969, "Je t'aime... moi non plus".

Banned on radio in several countries and condemned by the Vatican, the song was a worldwide success.

"He and I became the most famous of couples in that strange way because of 'Je t'aime' and because we stuck together for 13 years and he went on being my friend until the day he died. Who could ask for more?" Birkin told CNN in 2006.

"So Paris became my home. I've been adopted here. They like my accent," she said.

Birkin was born in London on December 14, 1946 to a naval officer and actress. **–AFP**

Who dunnit? That's the question

O MANASE (KANNADA)

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** DG Umesh Gowda
- **ACTORS** Vijay Raghavendra, Sanchita Padukone, Dharma Keerthiraj, Shobharaj, Sadhu Kokila, and Harish Raj.
- **Duration** 125 minutes
- **Certification** UA

The movie revolves around Karthik (Vijay Raghavendra), a police inspector, who gets transferred to Kodagu Police Station after antagonising a minister. Karthik happened to take the minister's lecherous son into custody for molesting a girl. He stays opposite Sneha's (Sanchita Padukone) house. Sneha's gregarious attitude makes him fall in love with her. Later he organises her birthday party and proposes to her. She asks him to take her to Talacauvery.

Meanwhile, the director introduces a money lender (Shobharaj), the uncle of Sneha, who lends money only to women. He wants to marry Sneha but her parents oppose his proposal. Police find Sneha's body in the river and Karthik begins investigating the case. He comes to know that three people, including an engineering student Keerthi (Dharma Keerthi), were friendly with Sneha. What happens to Keerthi is what O Manase is all about.

A Kannada movie with similar title was released in December 2014. The latest O Manase' screenplay pre-intermission is not convincing or interesting. Post-intermission, the movie gains momentum.

As far as performances go, Vijay Raghavendra has played a different role – of a police officer – in this movie. His body language and dialogue delivery are good. Sanchita Padukone has acted well. Keerthi, as a lover boy, is convincing. There will be more opportunities for him in Sandalwood if he hones his acting skills. Shobharaj, known for playing a villain in Kannada movies, has played a different role in this movie. Sadhu Kokila, as a head constable, tries his best to make the audience giggle for a while.

It is worth a watch if you want to see Vijay Raghavendra in a new avatar and also to see the beautiful locations of Kodagu and Chikkamagaluru.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

PRO can dance

Harish Aras, Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Sandalwood, has landed the chance to shake a leg with young and energetic actress Pratima in a song sequence of the film Kendada Seragu. Action Queen Malashree plays the lead role in the movie.

Appreciating Aras's dancing skills, director Rocky Somli said that it was very difficult for him to get the call-sheet of Aras as he is tied up with promotional activities of Kannada, Tamil and Telugu movies. "There was no time for Aras to attend the audition. Somehow I managed to get him to the shooting location. He danced well along with Pratima. The song was shot at three locations including a resort near Tumakuru, Bengaluru, and Davangere for four days. I am very happy with the performance of Aras and Pratima," said Somli.

The song – Ee Hudugi Yeshtu Chanda - is sung by Anirudh Shastry while Veeresh Kabli has scored the music. The lyrics were written by Somli himself.

Buy one take one!

Milana Nagaraj, the better half of Darling Krishna, has been facing a peculiar problem from Kannada movie producers and directors. The problem is that producers and directors who approach her husband to narrate the script consider her as an alternative heroine if they could not find any actress to cast opposite her husband.

"Producers and directors ask me to sit with my husband while narrating the script. They go home after deciding to have Krishna as a hero. They come back after a few weeks or months with a suggestion to my husband to have me as a heroine in their movie. It is like buy one get one. Director Shashank also followed the same method. He approached me to play one of the heroines after a few months of narrating the script to my husband," says Milana during the trailer launch of Kausalya Supraja Rama.